

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- B² sub C¹
1. (Twice amended) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody [specifically bound to a RET antigen on] and a cell selected from the group consisting of a multipotent neuronal progenitor (proNP) cell, a nonneuronal progenitor (NNP) cell and a committed neuronal progenitor (NP) cell, wherein said monoclonal antibody is specifically bound to a RET antigen on said cell.
 2. (Twice Amended) The [monoclonal antibody]composition according to claim 1, wherein said RET antigen consists essentially of the extracellular domain of RET.
 4. (Twice Amended) A method for the enrichment of neural progenitor cells, said method comprising:
 - a) combining a mixed population of cells comprising neural-crest derived cells comprising neural progenitor cells with [a reagent]an antibody that specifically binds to a RET antigen; and
 - b) selecting for RET positive cells.
 5. (Amended) [A]The method according to claim 4 wherein said [reagents are antibodies] antibody is selected from the group consisting of polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, antibody fragments, and single chain antibody.
 6. (Amended) [A]The method according to claim 5, wherein [at least one of] said [antibodies]antibody is fluorochrome conjugated.
 7. (Twice Amended) [A]The method according to claim 6, wherein said selecting with said fluorochrome conjugated [antibodies]antibody is by flow cytometry.
- B³ sub C²

12. (Amended) [A]~~The~~ population according to claim 8 wherein said neural progenitor cells are bound to [a reagent]an antibody that specifically binds to RET antigen.

B⁴
Sub
C₃
13. (Amended) [A]~~The~~ population according to claim 12 wherein said [reagent is a RET] antibody is selected from the group consisting of polyclonal antibody, monoclonal antibody, antibody fragments, and single chain antibody.

14. (Amended) [A]~~The~~ population according to claim 13 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 12-15 are in this case. An Appendix of the claims is attached for the Examiner's convenience. The specification has been amended to claim priority to provisional patent application no. 60/025,579, filed September 6, 1996. Support for the priority claim is found in the executed Declaration filed February 26, 1997. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 2 are found in Claims 1 and 2. Support for the amendments to Claims 4-7 and 12-13 are found at page 8, line 6 to page 10, line 19; and page 18, line 3 to page 35, line 2.

The amendments to the specification and claims are put forth at this time to expedite prosecution. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. The amendments do not introduce new matter nor do they broaden the scope of the claims or require new search. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter them. Favorable consideration of the following comments relative to the outstanding rejections as they may apply to the present claims is respectfully requested for the reasons that follow.